

Nazi hatred for anyone considered different stands as the antithesis of the values of freedom and liberty that we hold so dear.

It is also important to recognize the sacrifices, service, and dedication of Allied soldiers and underground fighters that resulted in the defeat of the Nazi regime and the liberation of the concentration camps. We are indebted to the service of these brave souls who fought against evil to stop the death and destruction of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the innocent lives lost and vibrant communities destroyed by the Holocaust. We also honor those heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who faced certain death when they fought against the Nazi's planned extermination of their community. With our solemn remembrance of the atrocities of the Holocaust, we empower a new generation to ensure that such crimes are never again repeated.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIVIEN SPITZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Vivien Spitz for her dedication and devotion to the court reporting profession over the past six decades. She has given so much to the court reporting profession and gained the admiration of friends and colleagues.

Vivien Spitz has played a valuable role in preserving history and documenting events of epic proportion throughout her career. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters of the National Court Reporters Association. Ms. Spitz was an Official Reporter of Debates and Chief Reporter in the United States House of Representatives from 1972 to 1982. During this time she reported Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan on their State of the Union Addresses to the Nation.

Vivien also reported all foreign Heads of State who addressed Congress during this period including King Juan Carlos of Spain, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin of Israel. She reported President Carter's establishment in 1978 of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, appointing Elie Wiesel as Chairman. She was also the first woman reporter in the U.S. Senate on temporary assignments during 1969, 1970, and 1971 out of her Denver district court.

By contract with the United States War Department, Ms. Spitz reported the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in Germany from 1946 to 1948, including the Nazi Doctors Case. She recorded verbatim the words that came from the mouths of witnesses and victims who survived the heinous experiments "in the name of scientific medical research" conducted by doctors who had taken the Oath of Hippocrates to heal and cure, turned into doctors who became torturers and murders. Through the record that she helped to create this serious tragedy will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Vivien for her years of work and dedication to her profession. The history that she has preserved through her devoted work as a court reporter will never be forgotten.

SECURE ACT OF 2005

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, following two school bus crashes that resulted in multiple injuries and fatalities in the last month, I reintroduced the SECURE Act of 2005, which requires all school buses to have safety belts.

Just yesterday, 23 children were injured in a bus crash in Missouri. Video from another accident in 2003 in Ohio shows 30 children literally falling out of their seats and being thrown against the other side of the bus. How can we say that our school buses are safe? We cannot wait for another tragedy to occur. It is time for Congress to take action.

Since we were old enough to ride in cars, we were taught to buckle our safety belts. We have taught our children these basic safety lessons to potentially save their lives during collisions. Yet, one of the most frequent forms of transportation used by school-aged children is not equipped with any life-saving safety belts. How can we not give our children the safest possible ride by assuring that all school buses are equipped with safety belts?

Currently, only six states require safety belts on school buses, including California, which was the first state to require three-point safety belts. The remaining states use the "compartmentalization" method to secure the safety of the occupant. This method assures a reasonable level of safety in frontal crashes; however, a 1999 report by the National Transportation Safety Board found that compartmentalization does not adequately protect passengers from lateral impact and rollover crashes because passengers do not always remain completely in their seats. Also, the national Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded that there is less trauma to the head and neck of passengers wearing 3-point safety belts.

Many people argue that the cost of installing safety belts on school buses is too high, when in fact it is only about \$1.80 per child. That is a minimal cost to pay to protect a child's life.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this legislation. We should not offer our children anything less than the safest ride to school each day.

CORRECTING MISCHARACTERIZATIONS IN PRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR PALESTINIANS

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct mischaracterizations in the press regarding assistance for the Palestinians included in the fiscal year 2005 Emergency Supplemental that passed Congress on May 10. As my colleagues are aware, the conference agreement includes \$200 million in assistance for the Palestinian people. Contrary to statements of others, this is the amount requested by the President.

Several recent articles and editorials have inaccurately portrayed the way in which Con-

gress provided this funding. The inaccuracies contained in these articles do not reflect the intent of the Administration or Congress and threaten to undermine the good work of the United States in supporting a lasting peace in the Middle East. These inaccuracies must be corrected.

First, the President did not request the \$200 million as a direct payment to the Palestinian Authority. As Administration officials have repeatedly stated publicly and in communications with Congress, this funding was requested predominantly for projects that benefit the Palestinian people. For instance, Secretary Rice on February 16 testified before the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and on February 17 before the House International Relations Committee that most of these funds would be used for projects, not direct payments to the Palestinian Authority. In fact, the supplemental conference agreement includes a chart highlighting how assistance should be provided on a project-by-project basis. This chart directly tracks the justification material provided by the Administration to support its supplemental request and establishes a mechanism for proper Congressional oversight and intent.

Second, it is simply incorrect to call an additional \$200 million of U.S. taxpayer assistance a "no-confidence vote" for Mr. Abbas. There is widespread Congressional support and confidence in Mr. Abbas which is reflected by the \$200 million provided in the supplemental and the \$75 million provided in the fiscal year 2005 appropriations bill. This constitutes a nearly three-fold increase in U.S. assistance to the Palestinian people in just six months. As the final bill makes clear, these funds are provided with the same terms and conditions that have applied to Palestinian assistance in years past. Under these terms, the President may provide direct payments to the Palestinian Authority only if he certifies to Congress that such assistance is important to our country's national security interests.

Finally, the final bill requires that \$50 million of the assistance should be provided to Israel to improve the movement of people and goods to benefit the Palestinian people. A stable Palestinian state must be built on economic development, and economic development must be built upon a smooth flow of goods and people to and from the Palestinian territories and Israel. The Congress also made it clear that infrastructure will have to be developed in both the Palestinian and Israeli territories.

Mr. Speaker, it concerns me that editorial boards of certain newspapers would make such strong statements about our lack of support for the Palestinian people based on inaccurate information. These issues are too delicate and too important to be damaged by careless journalism.

TRIBUTE TO DR. IAN HARRIS, IN RECOGNITION OF THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished